

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO ENTER PLEA BEFORE
A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

(A copy of this notice and the attached consent form is to be given to all criminal defendants and/or their counsel in cases assigned to the undersigned judge)

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636, a United States Magistrate Judge is authorized, with a defendant's consent, to conduct a plea proceeding under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.* However, a defendant has the right to have a United States District Judge conduct his plea proceeding, and his decision not to proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge has no impact whatsoever on the disposition of his case. Any defendant who is willing to consent to allowing a United States Magistrate Judge to conduct his plea proceeding must complete and sign the attached consent form. Upon the filing of a signed consent form, the case shall be referred automatically to a United States Magistrate Judge for the sole purpose of the defendant's plea proceeding.



**DENNIS W. SHEDD
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

February 24, 1998
Columbia, South Carolina

*See *United States v. Dees*, 125 F.3d 261 (5th Cir. 1997); *United States v. Ciapponi*, 77 F.3d 1247 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 116 S. Ct. 1839 (1996); *United States v. Williams*, 23 F.3d 629 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 513 U.S. 1045 (1994).